

TALON



Volume XIX Edition IV
November/December

"To sin by silence when they should protest
makes cowards of men." - Abraham Lincoln

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Former Avila Student: Brad Sage



Where's Our Voice?

By Lynette Galvan
Commentary



Let's go back to April 4, 1968, the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Riots and disorder began, police enforcement was called upon, and the American people were enraged with anger.

Back in Kansas City we were coping and while doing so, maintaining a civilized structure. That is until April 9 1968, the day of Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral.

Infuriated with the government for not allowing students the day off from school to pay respect to Mr. King, 1000 high school students came together and marched down to City Hall in protest. Surrounded by police, the National Guard, and other forms law enforcement, these students marched to make a point. Not to cause trouble, but to just be heard. Their march ended after tear gas was used, but it is said that the tear gas was to have never been implemented. But by then the students' point had been made.



Photo by Snorgrass: Piece of Berlin wall on exhibit at Newseum in Washington DC

that those 1000 high schools students did not have; it's called technology. With the touch of a button we can relay a message half way across the world in a matter of seconds. Any world news we want to know we have access to 24/7. The world, and the power to change it, is at our fingertips.

Kansas City riots: April 1968	
Dead	Five civilians.
Injured	At least 20 admitted to hospitals, including two National Guardsmen, a fireman; no policemen.
Fires	More than 150 of incendiary nature.
Police	Four hundred fifty on 12-hour shifts. All 30 Jackson County sheriff's patrol on duty.
National Guard	Six hundred sixty on patrol and at posts; another 1,500 in reserve.
Fire department	Full complement.
Arrested	More than 100 adults and 11 juveniles.
Source: Kansas City Star, April 9, 1968	

I share this story because I wonder: what happened to our voice? What happened to the young people? Why do we not care, nor care to be informed better about what's going on in our world? It is our world that we, the up and coming generation, will be running in not many years. Knowing what "Snooki" and "The Situation" did on the last episode of Jersey Shore is not going to do squat toward improving our world.

Let me say that again, Our home, Our

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country, Our world. Take pride in what is ours; show the world that we are a generation that is not passive, nor ready for someone else to take the reins. It is time to show that we will speak without hesitation. And when we choose to speak, we go all out. We have this great thing

So why not do it? Why not take a stand like those 1000 high school students did on April 9? Why not? I pledge to know what's going on in my world. I pledge to care what's going on in my world. I pledge to at least inform others if I can't change what's going on in my world. One pledge can lead to another, which can lead to another, and then another. It is when we come together as one that things can change.

What do you pledge? Do you want to see change? What will you do to make it happen? Watch the news? Talk with others about it? Or be proactive? It's time for students to get motivated about something other than "Jersey Shore." Join us at thetalon-online.com and voice your opinions.



Making A Point Doesn't Have to Get Personal

By Trisha Simmons
Commentary



An important topic was brought up at our latest Talon meeting. The subject of “voice” was presented. As we sat and brainstormed stories we all became pretty heated talking about the restrictions that are put on our freedom of speech, and the fact that young adults don’t care about important issues

I agree that as young adults our voices are often ignored. I agree that we should speak out more about things that we think are wrong or unjust. However, I think it could be a very, very bad thing if we encourage speaking out and voicing our opinions more than we already do. Why, you ask?

Let me first start with some examples of young adults saying too much.

I am certain that by now many Avila students have seen, or heard, of the Facebook group created to bring about changes in the campus cafeteria. The group is titled “Get Lana the cafeteria manager out of Avila.”

While I support the students in this group for speaking up, and agree that the cafeteria and its management could be improved, I think that naming a specific person to be fired was a little extreme. This is not an effective way to send a message to the University. It would be better if a group called “Bring changes to the Avila cafeteria and food service system.” Students could then specifically say what it is they don’t like about the food service on campus.

Another Facebook example is a status update I read encouraging November voting. It read: “Everyone go out and vote today! Even if you don’t know what you’re voting for just do it!!! We control our future!” – I don’t want these people controlling my future if they don’t know what they are voting for!!! I DID NOT vote for that very reason. I commend this person for promoting a good cause, but there was not enough thought put into that

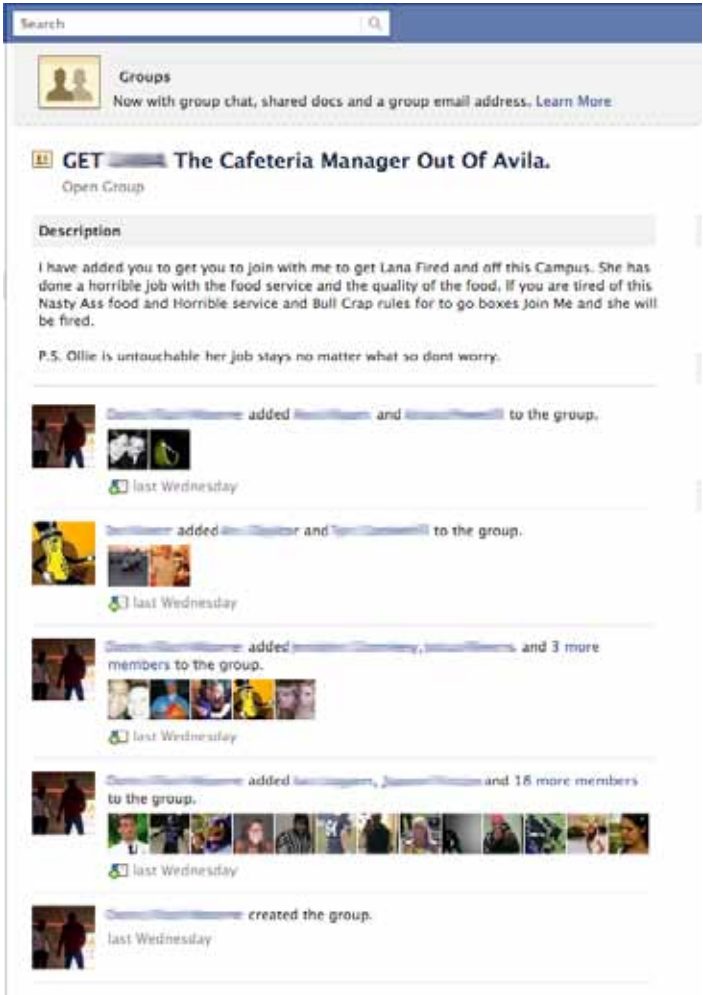


Photo by Trisha Simmons: The Facebook group created to bring change to Avila’s cafeteria and food services.

message.

enough to speak up about them. I agreed at the time, and still do, but I also have to ask: do we say too much?

There are many other examples similar to these. Young people speak out and act irrational about something that is important to them, but look bad doing it. It’s things like these that make us, the young adults, look incapable and naive to our elders.

Season's Greetings from the Team



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Police Absence Makes Justice Less Rewarding

By Valerie Reed
Commentary

Eleven students enter the Kansas City Municipal Court on November 15, 2010 at 11 a.m. Our objective: to fight against the Oak Street parking tickets.

Upon entering the courthouse, my nerves were started getting to me. Once we all made it safely through the metal detectors and up two floors, we came upon Courtroom H. There were no lights on and a sign saying the hearings were moved to Courtroom D. Outside Courtroom D, is a group of people waiting for the 11 a.m. docket hearings. All of us, Avila Students, were apprehensive about going in.

After waiting for 25 minutes, I finally asked a police officer if we should just enter the courtroom. He asked what time we were scheduled. Because they were already 30 minutes behind schedule, he cautiously said we should go in, stating that if we missed our turn a warrant would be issued. We didn't think twice after that statement, and piled into the courtroom. With everyone's eyes on us, we quietly found a place against the sidewall of the room.

The judge's serious appearance made me more anxious. Then, on the side, a man in a suit calls out names while holding tickets. Little did I know, those tickets would be dismissed because the officer did not appear. Upon hearing my name from the gentleman, my fine is dismissed. This was a bittersweet moment, because I am off the hook. What about my classmates? What about pleading my case?

Once I tell the rest of the students the news, even after being told that bringing a group to plead the case was alright, we find out that they were still liable for their tickets. Trying to find someone to get some answers, I see a sign for an Information Desk downstairs, and

all of us march on down.

Once downstairs we immediately start to explain what we just went through. The lady behind the desk said those who were not dismissed could request for an add-on from the courtroom clerk. As we were all gathered in the hallway discussing further action, a prosecutor approaches us and asks, "If we are the group from Avila University."

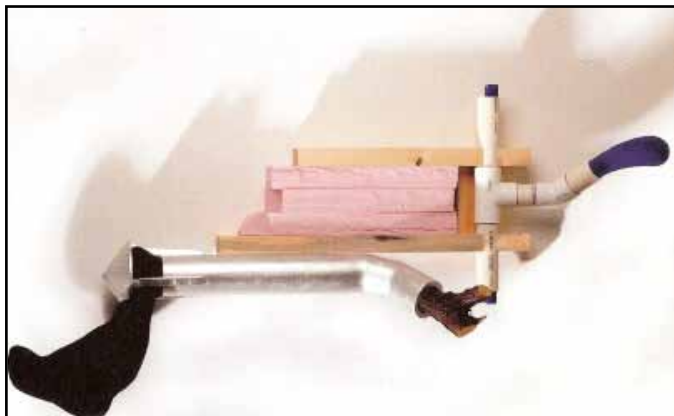
After explaining our situation to the prosecutor, he proceeded to take us into the Prosecuting Offices, where he lined us all up. Going from student to student, analyzing each ticket, he came to the conclusion that the only fair thing to do is to dismiss them



Photo by Trisha Simmons: Lynette gladly ripping up her dismissed ticket!

all. "Since there was eleven of you coming in here, there obviously isn't something right," said the prosecutor as we left the offices.

What started out as a "stupid" ticket, turned into a model of power of voice in group.



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Students offended by “College Kid” Label

By James Chapman

Students in college are often perceived as adolescents or kids. Most are 18-22 years of age and holding a part time job or are full time athletes. The image of a college student is molded every day when we get through rigorous course loads and spend weekends in the library, at practice, at work, or just out on the town creating a social life.

The average college student puts in at least 30 hours of work a week. 40 hours would be considered a full time job to most. When does the transition of being a “college kid” to being recognized as an adult in this world begin? College kids are often treated with the level of respect that a kid in high school deserves and this is done by the people that have more life experience. I would like to disagree, and feel college students deserve more respect.

Here is the match-up: Students in college versus the experience of an “adult”. What qualifies the adult you might ask? The many years that they hold over our heads collecting attributes such as wisdom and experience? Is an acceptable reason for qualifying them as “adults”? Why does the conversation the students choose to hold with adults have to be manipulated into a power matchup? As students there is no power in the position, but that does not mean that we shouldn’t be able to be treated as adults and on an even playing field. Look eye to eye and see that we are in a position to do great things and we

need to learn and inquire knowledge from the adults of this society to make it in the world. We question because we care about what is being said. So adults, don’t take it offensively, embrace the underlying message that we are here by choice, paying for the ability to provide a better and more influential life for ourselves.

All we ask is for respect from each adult that has an influence on our life. Understand that each person has a different opinion and we are here to express ours. Challenge each person including our peers; let us speak our minds without repression.



Photo by James Chapman: John Czerwinski works an 8 hour shift at his part time job, but still puts in 2 more hours of homework.





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"Explore the Real Roots of Hip-Hop"

Christmas Comes In November: Softball & Baseball

By Emilee Bickleman



There is nothing more exciting than getting presents a month before Christmas has arrived! The Avila Baseball and Softball teams will soon get to enjoy early Christmas gifts. Both teams have received updates to their fields.



Photo by Emilee Bickleman: Nail found on the softball field causing safety hazards.

The Avila Baseball team has been trying to update their field for a long time. “The field was beginning to be the worst field in the conference. It was at a JV high school level, so it needed to be upgraded severely,” says Coach Howard, head coach of Avila’s men’s baseball team.

After winning the HAAC tournament last year, the baseball team came back to Avila from summer break and noticed the new infield. Over the summer Bermuda grass replaced the old infield. Since the start of the semester there have been many other changes and more plans made for updates. Cutouts will be made in the infield to help with drainage; new dugouts will be added, as well as a new brick back stop.

The brand new dugouts are replacing the small, leaking, flimsy dugouts. This is possible thanks to the help of a player’s father’s company. Coach Howard states, “Being a national tournament qualifier, a team that is pretty good, and top 25 ranked

in the country, it was time and due for some improvements out there.” The team will be coming out this spring on their new stomping ground!

The Avila Softball team is able to update their field as well. The improvements are not only necessary for cosmetic and playing reasons, but also for safety. Coach Williamson, Avila’s head softball coach, states, “There were a lot of safety concerns and we just needed to update some of that for the safety of the players.”

The school is helping out with the remodeling of the field. There will be new dugouts, new infield, concrete poured in the dugouts, a new hitting cage, and work done to solve the drainage issues. “The field will be much more playable, it won’t be such a tough infield, the dugouts will look a little more finished off. Once they get all of that done it will just look a little nicer overall,” says Coach Williamson. The softball field will be ready for the spring season within the next couple of weeks, depending on the weather.

Check out the new and improved softball and baseball fields and support both teams this spring!



Photo by Emilee Bickleman: The new outfield

Burning the Ashes: *Fahrenheit 451* Production

By Faye Gipe



Burning books is good. It's right. There's something about watching the flames and that smell of kerosene that warms the soul. People who own books have obviously been misled. The real way to be happy is to get rid of the books! Burn them!

The walls of my living room make me happy. They're actually giant television screens that let me spend time with other people around the world, my family. Books upset people, they make us nervous. People who read usually get sick and often suicidal. I just want to be happy. So let the government handle all the politics, let the books burn, and let me enjoy my television dramas, my sleeping pills, and my parlor wall families in peace.

In Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, this perspective is held by much of society. Let the books burn and let the government take care of the political business. The majority of people in *Fahrenheit* society simply wish to be happy and find that happiness through pills and by living their contrived existences out with their parlor walls. To maintain this lifestyle, the government employs firemen and women like Captain Beatty, played by Shea Ketchum, and Guy Montag, portrayed by Ben Auxier.

From November 18th-21st, Avila's production of this futuristic yet plausible tale was innovative and layered with

symbolism throughout. The memorizers of books, termed "book people," identified with their books so much that costume designer Ruby Salmon blended elements from the authors' styles and those of their characters to create an eclectic vision in the final scene of the play. Many elements of the production also relate directly to Bradbury's influences in writing the story as well. The firemen and women reflect costumes much like the uniforms of the Nazis who began book burning in 1933.

Salmon comments, "I chose to give the firemen and women a Nazi influence because the fire people parallel them in the oppression of book readers as the Nazis oppressed and exterminated the Jews."

Meanwhile the oppressive voice of the government, heard in Captain Beatty, also reflects Nazi policies in Josh Gleeson's sound design.

"Anytime Chief Beatty's character listens to music, she would listen to Beethoven,



Wagner, or Bruchner, which are the three composers that Hitler deemed worthy in his political sphere,” Gleeson notes.

Lyle Uttley’s design for Faber’s attic hiding place is a book that hangs above the stage. This is appropriate as Faber was once an English professor and the ideology presented in many texts referenced in the play loom over heads of the other characters. Furthermore, this book references, along

its spine, an ambiguous author and title, encouraging members of the audience to identify with an element in the show.

Overall, the production references the past while adapting to the challenges of the technical advances addressed by Bradbury. The cast only added to this, making the world exist, through their realistic portrayal of humans struggling to find peace and happiness.

In the Alcoves: The Beginnings of the Avila Writing Center

By Faye Gipe

In the very back of the Hooley-Bundschu Library sit a few round tables, shelves of portfolio-sized books, and a handful of dedicated English and Honors students, ready and waiting to help edit papers for students in need of grammatical assistance.

The Library has been generous enough to give a space for this up and coming group of dedicated students and their services this semester. There are many plans currently in place to move forward with alterations of this space including the addition of a coffee maker, a few couches, and new paint on the walls.

This band of reckless grammatical renegades and their fearless leader, Dr. Tony Michel, have begun a system of setting up appointments with students to revise papers in the evenings while walk-ups are welcome during the day. The students have begun to advertise their services across the campus in quote symbols as a means of grabbing attention while referencing the academic nature of their duties.

The hours of the Avila Writing Center (AWC) vary from day to day and range from 10:30 a. m. – 9:50 p. m. Sign ups are available at the front counter of the library.

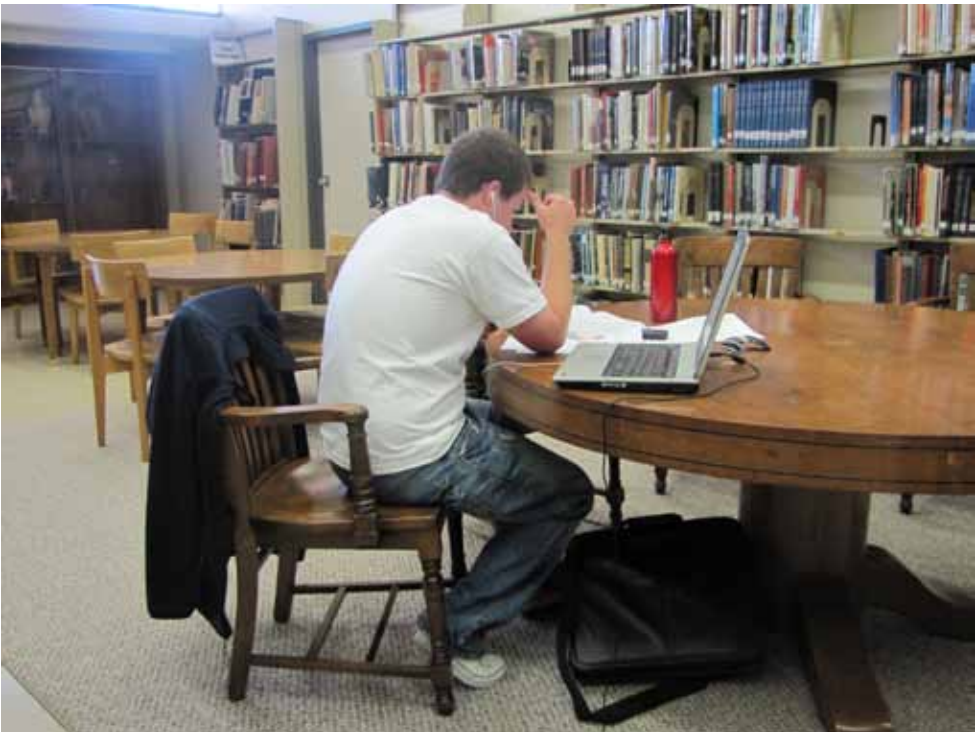


Photo by Trisha Simmons: The “very back of the Hooley- Bundschu Library,” where the Avila Writing Center is located.

McGovern Makes a Big Statement

By Emilee Bickleman



Avila's new Cross Country team has finished its season with a bang. The team has clearly made a name for itself with great help from team member Adam McGovern, a transfer student from Emporia State University.

Coach Dave Denny says, "Adam is a great ambassador for our sport and our first year of cross country at Avila University. He is 'putting us on the map' and we hope to build on this season with more athletes and eventually a whole team qualifying for the NAIA National Cross Country Championships. Our men and women have worked extremely hard this fall and some of them are running cross country for the first time." Recently, Adam made history and a name for himself at Avila.

At Lee's Summit West High School, McGovern was on a state championship relay when he was a junior, and his senior year he was All State in cross country. His coach in high school was Coach Dave Denny, who is now the head coach for Avila's cross country team. Denny says, "Adam trusts me as a coach, because we have worked together for many years. He knows that I will listen to him and he will listen to me. He communicates well with me and lets me know if there are any issues that I need to know about. We work well together to plan out his training program and know how to have him running his best at the end of the season when the championship meets are run."

Before transferring to Avila, McGovern ran Cross Country for Emporia State University. "Adam was very competitive in the NCAA Division II as a sophomore at the conference level while running for Emporia State," states Denny. To maintain and improve his abilities he runs 60-80 miles a week.

On November 6th McGovern qualified for nationals by finishing third at the Heart of American Athletic Conference. He



Courtesy Photos - Above: Adam (in white) running in the meet at Tabor. Below: Adam passing competition in the meet at Tabor



completed the 8-kilometer course in Baldwin City, Kansas in 25 minutes, 54.39 seconds. "He finished third and nearly second as he narrowly lost to last year's defending conference champion from Graceland," says Denny with pride. This win makes McGovern Avila's first Cross Country runner to qualify for the NAIA Cross Country Championships.

The National meet for cross country will be November 20th in Vancouver, Washington. McGovern, and the Cross Country team, has Avila's support in this competition. Best of luck!



Shooting The Bull With Doug Benson

By James Chapman



Comedy Central's stand-up comedian and the main character of the film "Super High Me", Doug Benson, recently took the time to



be a part of a conference call to talk about his new show called "The Benson Interruption." I was fortunate enough to be able to join this conference call/interview.

The show, which aired November 5th at midnight, consists of Benson sitting in a chair on stage while other comics complete a stand up skit. You might ask, what is so special about the show? Well, Benson has a microphone and continuously interrupts the comedian, making the joke funnier or just making fun of his fellow comedian on stage. So being the viewer, you get to watch two

entertaining comedians converse and tell stories which consist of any and every topic.

Benson would not release the names of the comedians he plans on having on the show, but did say this, "Everyone that is going to appear on my show will be my friends and others that will be able to tolerate me constantly interrupting them while going through a story." But Doug Benson is not just your average comedian. Most of his characters in prior film and TV work have consisted of the use of marijuana and having an avid vote in the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Benson went on to say, "That is what "Super High Me" was about, the effects of smoking pot. I also added in the film why I chose to smoke pot, but my new show isn't going to be anything like that. It will be more about interrupting people than smoking marijuana."

"The Benson Interruption" can be seen on Fridays at midnight on comedy central. For more information about Doug Benson's life and his work you can find him on MySpace, Facebook, or his personal podcasts.

Dance Results Are In!

By Erin Hopper



The results are in! Avila University's cheer and dance squads submitted a qualifying video for the national competition in Orlando, Florida in January. Both routines looked amazing and now the wait is over.

The ranking of the teams' performances has been released. Dance placed eighth with their routine and cheer placed fourth.

"I was a little disappointed with our ranking," said freshman dancer Kristen Riddle, "But this gives us a chance to really bring it at nationals." This ranking is only the first judging. The teams still have a couple months to perfect their routine before they compete at Nationals in January.

"I am looking forward to Nationals," said freshman dancer Brianna Gilmour, "I believe the ranking we received will really motivate the team to push harder to do well."

Good luck to both teams as they prepare over the next few months!



Get Your Group-On!

By Eric Potter



In this economy everyone is looking for a way to save or at least cut back. With groupon.com you don't have to stress about saving money. This website is designed for customers and consumers trying to save money and time.

The catch? It is completely FREE to sign up, BUT the coupons are only good for one day. Another catch, the coupons are group coupons. The term group coupon means that

the business offering the coupon sets a limit for the number of coupons allotted to be used. If the limit for a coupon is 100 people/uses, you can use it, but only if you are one of the first 100 consumers.

Groupon is available in 35 different cities. Registered consumers receive daily emails. The website and service is real and accessible. Avila senior Dan Myers was skeptical about Groupon's services, so he tried it out and was very impressed. "I got on the website and got a membership and I already have my moms Christmas present done because I got her a massage for 50% off of the regular price."

Everyone is looking to save pennies and by using Groupon you could save dollars.



Photo by Valerie Reed: The Groupon website, where the "Deal of the Day" can be found for your specific district.

Get Silly With Bandz

By Erin Hopper



The cool item around the town is silly bandz, a shaped rubber band. These rubber bands have exploded around the Kansas City area. They were so addictive they were banned from elementary schools. Were Avila students participants in the craze?

"My favorites were my toy story bandz. I loved to wear them and trade with my friends," said Sophomore Dianne Winter, "It may sound childish but for some reason those bands were addictive."

There you have it, silly bandz can catch the attention of anyone ages 5-25 years old. Whether we want to admit it or not silly bandz will always have a place in our hearts.

GIVE THE GIFT OF TECH

The perfect holiday gifts for the gadget lover in your life

BY GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

The latest and greatest in the technology world exists for just a few days.

Capturing that elusive "must-have thing of the moment" for the tech geeks on your shopping list can be quite a challenge, and horror of horrors if you end up giving someone last year's iPod.

To help you in your tech quest, we've compiled a list of what's out there for this holiday season. Happy shopping!

ROCK OUT

Headphones make a great gift and iFrogz has a few reasonably priced additions.

The DJ-style headphones, named the Ronin and Mogul headphones, are for anyone wanting comfortable over-the-ear fit without having to spend your entire holiday budget.

Both models work with any electronic gadget having a 3.5mm headphone jack.

They feature adjustable over-the-ear style cushioned speakers, good to wear over a long period of time, and both fold up for storage.

The Moguls (\$69.99) feature AeroFoam cushions, which help keep out unwanted noise and give you great sound from speakers featuring 50mm drivers producing good sound with a good amount of bass.

They are available in black, magenta, sky blue and white.

The lesser-priced Ronins (\$49.99) have standard cushioned padding and are available in black, blue, red and white. They have the 50mm drivers to deliver clear sound in comfort.

<http://ifrogz.com>



iFrogz Moguls



iFrogz Ronins



Logitech
Wireless Illuminated
Keyboard K800

TYPE ON

Logitech's Wireless Illuminated Keyboard K800 is a full-sized option for any Mac or PC user working day or night.

What makes it stand out from other keyboards is its ambient light and motion sensors.

The sensors detect how much light is in the room and the motion sensors work well to detect when your hands are on the keys, turning the backlighting on and off as needed. Thus the keys are backlit with the correct amount of light for viewing, regardless of how much light is in the room.

The rechargeable wireless keyboard can enjoy longer battery life because of this, up to 10 days before needing a charge.

Charging is done with a micro-USB connection, and it doesn't matter if the keyboard is in use while recharging the built-in AA NiMH batteries.

Typing with the keyboard is very comfortable due to the Logitech PerfectStroke technology and key system. Users type, as Logitech describes it, in a "stroke comfortable, fluid and whisper-quiet" manner.

The full-sized keyboard includes a number keypad on the right, the standard F1 through F12 keys, volume controls and more.

A connection to your computer is made with a small 2.4 GHz wireless USB connection, which can stay in the USB port and also will control a Logitech wireless mouse.

www.logitech.com, \$99.99



Kensington
PowerBack

KICK IT

One of the hottest items on the market continues to be Apple's iPad, and there is no shortage of accessories for them.

Kensington has what I think is one of the best — the PowerBack (\$129.99) battery case with kickstand and dock, which has gotten the official Apple stamp of approval.

With a portable device like the iPad, power is critical and portable power is often necessary. This case gives you both and more.

The iPads have great battery power, but often it's not enough and the PowerBack is a great choice.

In addition to the added power, you get a hard-shell case for protection and a built-in kickstand for hands-free use.

The kickstand opens to a 65-degree angle, allowing for a separate keyboard (not included) and landscape or portrait viewing.

To attach, slide your iPad in; it snaps together in seconds to protect your expensive device from scratches and other environment hazards.

A micro-USB cable is included for charging the PowerBack 4200mAh battery, which should give your iPad about five additional hours of life.

To find out how much power is left in the extra battery, an indicator has four lights to display with a push of a button.

If additional power isn't needed, Kensington KeyFolio Bluetooth Keyboard and Case for iPad (\$99.99) falls in the functional and well-built category.

The synthetic leather case stores your iPad and has wireless Bluetooth keyboard with rubberized keys built into the device.

The keyboard is also charged with a micro-USB connection and has rubber keys to ensure that they won't scratch the device when not in use.

Both the PowerBack and the KeyFolio give users full access to the iPad when attached including the 30-pin connection for charging and syncing.

<http://us.kensington.com>



Kensington
KeyFolio



Joby Gorillapod Switchback

LIGHT UP

Joby's Gorillapod Switchback is a new addition from the company known for the Gorillapod line of tripods for cameras and iPods or iPhones.

The light comes in a kit with the tripod to attach an LED lantern-headlamp in any environment where extra portable lighting is needed.

Six light modes are available along with an adjustable dimmer switch to control five powerful LEDs projected with a 92 percent ultra-efficient holographic lens.

How much it lights depends on your environment, but Joby states it is capable of illuminating an 8-person family tent or small cabin.

With the famous Gorillapod tripod included, attaching it to most anything is simple.

The flexible tripod legs can stand upright on any flat surface, attach to a pole, doorknob or most anything it can wrap around.

The versatility doesn't end there: a woven headband is included to take the light off the tripod to wear while hiking, trolling around an attic or just trying to get more light anywhere it's needed.

Using the headband, it will light up to 60 feet ahead.

In addition you get two white LEDs for flood lighting and two red LEDs to preserve night vision on headband.

<http://joby.com>, \$59.99

WAKE UP

The XtremeMac Luna SST joins the crowded field of AC powered docking nightstand alarm systems, but manages to set itself apart.

What makes it stand out is that the unit splits into two pieces; one can be placed on another nightstand. This is handy since the Luna features dual-alarm capabilities with full stereo sound.

The clock is easy to view on the large LED backlit face with orange numbers, which adjusts from bright to dim.

Alarm controls and the ever-important snooze for the dual alarms are well-placed on both the main unit and the detachable speaker.

Users can dock an iPod touch or iPhone for the audio and video content as well as

charging. Anything on these devices can be played to wake up, as well as FM radio chimes.

There's also an XtremeMac Alarm Clock App to create a customized wakeup. This lets users choose what they want to wake up to (music, sounds, etc.) and set the snooze times.

The Luna SST sounds great as a sound system. The included wireless remote is helpful to change the sound settings (bass and treble), your choice of tunes and the volume.

www.XtremeMac.com, \$129.99

Xtreme Mac
Luna SST




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